

# At Meeting, Faculty Vote Not to Restrain MIT Press Releases

## Admins Ask Department Chairs for Support

By Quentin Smith

Over 200 people attended the Dec. 19 faculty meeting to discuss a motion that asked MIT to limit its public statements about community members facing criminal investigations. The original motion was sparked by an MIT press release, calling Star A. Simpson '10 "reckless" on the day of her Sept. 21, 2007 arrest at Logan Airport.

After hours of acrimonious discussion, including allegations by Professor Patrick H. Winston that administrators had asked department chairs for their faculty's votes, the original motion was defeated by a 31-36 vote. The faculty also voted against two alternate proposals.

Some faculty members said none of the proposals adequately captured their feelings, and others said they

felt that policy should not be shaped by a single event. (See page 12 for full text of the motion and amendments.)

At a lunch meeting in early December between Institute administrators and department chairs, the chairs were asked to participate in the Dec. 19 faculty meeting at which the motion would be discussed. "It was clear that the upper administration was worried about the motion," said Anne E. McCants, chair of the history department, who attended the lunch meeting.

On Sept. 21, 2007, Simpson was arrested at Logan Airport for wearing a shirt that had wires, a battery pack, and light-emitting diodes on it. She was charged with posses-

Faculty Meeting, Page 12

# Gray to Step Down From HST Leadership Position

By Jeff Guo

STAFF REPORTER

Martha L. Gray PhD '86, director of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, announced in November that she will leave the position at the end of the academic year.

Gray will be the second of HST's two co-directors to depart from HST in a year, following Professor Joseph V. Bonventre, who stepped down in June. Like Bonventre, Gray will con-

tinue to work as a full-time researcher at HST, and she retains her MIT appointment as Edward Hood Taplin Professor of Medical and Electrical Engineering.

During her 12-year term, Gray helped shape new educational programs and recruit more than 60 permanent faculty members to what was once a volunteer-only organization.

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# Ward, Longtime Administrator, Leaves SAO

## Eight-Year Veteran of Student Activities Office Departs for HST; No Replacement Found Yet

By Shreyes Seshasai

STAFF REPORTER

Laurie Ward, financial administrator of the Student Activities Office since 2000, has moved to an administrative position in the Harvard-MIT

Division of Health Sciences and Technology. At the SAO, Ward managed the financial accounts of hundreds of student groups, processing deposits, reimbursements, and other expenses.

Her position at SAO will not be

filled immediately. Instead, Assistant Dean for Student Activities Jed Wartman and the rest of the SAO staff will pause to assess the direc-

Ward, Page 10



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Laurie Ward, after eight years of working with student groups as financial administrator in the Student Activities Office, has moved to her new role of financial administrator at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

# Student Center Thefts on the Rise; Dozens of Steelcase Chairs Stolen

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg

STAFF REPORTER

Frustrated by a rash of thefts in the Student Center throughout the fall semester, especially the loss of \$20,000 worth of chairs, Campus Activities Complex Director Phillip J. Walsh said he is facing a new problem of physical security.

Since 1988, when Walsh first came to MIT, he has "never had a real problem with theft as we have had this year," he said. The MIT Police's crime logs report six serious instances of theft or property damage in the building this fall and countless more instances of petty larceny in

the building.

Walsh said that a sharp increase in thefts spurred the CAC to close the Student Center during winter break for eight days, about twice as long as the usual holiday closures.

Perhaps the most dramatic disappearance in recent history was the December theft of a safe from the Student Life Programs's fifth floor office. But the theft of chairs from the 24-hour reading room represents the largest capital loss reported this fall.

Paul Buckley, CAC night manager, said in an e-mail that 46 of the room's Steelcase chairs have been

stolen since its Orientation 2006 opening and that most of the thefts happened between August 2007 and October 2007.

The replacement cost for each of the stolen chairs is \$437.25, so the total replacement cost of the stolen chairs is \$20,113.50, Buckley said. Walsh said that he expects MIT's theft insurance will cover the losses but that the Insurance Office had asked the CAC to review security in the reading room.

CAC Assistant Director Jennifer B. Smith said that she is consider-

Theft, Page 13



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Forty-six Steelcase chairs have been stolen from the Student Center's 24-hour reading room; their replacement cost is about \$20,000. Inexpensive task chairs (center) have replaced some stolen chairs.

## CMS One Step Closer to Approval as Official Major

The Committee on Curricula unanimously voted yesterday to approve Comparative Media Studies as an official undergraduate degree program. COC approval was the "second step in the review of the major," said Leila W. Kinney, CMS administrator for academic programs.

The Committee on the Undergraduate Program also unanimously approved CMS in the fall after its review last spring. The review assessed five areas: student interest, subject enrollments, student opinion, program infrastructure, and program sustainability.

The undergraduate program, launched in 2003 as a five-year experiment by the CUP, still must meet faculty approval before it becomes a permanent major. The final committee in the approval process is the Faculty Policy Committee. Upon FPC recommendation that CMS become a permanent program, the Institute faculty will vote to decide the major's status, probably at the March or April faculty meeting, Kinney said.

—Arkajit Dey

## News Brief

### In Short

¶ Register to vote today in Massachusetts if you plan to vote in the Feb. 5 primary election; today is the last day registrations will be accepted. To register by mail, fill out the National Mail Registration Form available at <http://www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.shtml> and mail it, postmarked today, to the Cambridge Election Commission, 51 Inman St., First Floor, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. To register in person today, visit the Cambridge Election Commission Office at 51 Inman St. before 8 p.m., or register at any other Massachusetts voter registration center. For more information, call 1-800-462-VOTE.

¶ The dismissal hearing for Star A. Simpson '10 continues Friday, Jan. 25, at 9 a.m. in the East Boston District courthouse. Simpson faces charges of possessing a hoax device for appearing at Logan Airport wearing a circuit board mistaken for a bomb in September 2007. The motion to dismiss being considered by the court has been continued from hearings held on Jan. 10, 2008 and Dec. 3, 2007.

¶ Professor Ian A. Waitz will be the next head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, effective Feb. 16.

Send news information and tips to [news@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@the-tech.mit.edu).

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WORLD & NATION

Justice Dept. Briefed Congress on Blackwater Case Obstacles

By James Risen and David Johnston

WASHINGTON  
Justice Department officials have told Congress that they face serious legal difficulties in pursuing criminal prosecutions of Blackwater security guards involved in a September shooting that left at least 17 Iraqis dead.

In a private briefing in mid-December, officials from the Justice and State Departments met with aides to the House Judiciary Committee and other congressional staff members and warned them that there were major legal obstacles that might prevent any prosecution. Justice officials were careful not to say whether any decision had been made in the matter, according to two of the congressional staff members who received the briefing.

The staff members, who asked not to be identified, disclosed details of the meeting in interviews this week.

U.N. Chief Calls for Constructive Dialogue Among Cultures

By Victoria Burnett

MADRID  
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed Tuesday for global dialogue to fight terrorism, though he conceded that there was no quick way to eliminate the Islamist terror threat.

“Never in our lifetime has there been a more desperate need for constructive and committed dialogue, among individuals, among communities, among cultures, among and between nations,” he said at the start of an international conference here aimed at promoting understanding between Western and Muslim cultures.

“The threats are terrifying, but the responses are at hand,” he added during a speech to the first forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, a U.N.-backed initiative that is the brainchild of the Spanish prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Zapatero proposed the alliance at the U.N. General Assembly in 2004, a few months after he was elected in the wake of an Islamist terrorist attack that killed 191 Spanish commuters in Madrid on March 11 of that year. Turkey also sponsored the project, which more than 80 countries support.

Supreme Court Limits Lawsuits by Shareholders

By Linda Greenhouse

WASHINGTON  
Ruling in its most important securities fraud case in years, the Supreme Court on Tuesday placed a towering obstacle in the path of shareholders looking for someone to sue when a stock purchase turns sour.

The decision in the case, Stoneridge Investment Partners v. Scientific-Atlanta Inc., was a major and ardently sought victory for investment banks, accountants and vendors — the deep pockets that have become nearly automatic targets of class-action lawsuits that accuse them of having engaged in a fraudulent scheme with the company that actually issued the stock.

The notion of “scheme liability,” as the theory behind such lawsuits is known, now appears to be dead.

The 5-3 decision held that in order to proceed with such a lawsuit, plaintiffs must be able to show that they had relied, in making their decision to acquire or hold stock, on the deceptive behind-the-scenes behavior of these financial institutions, often called secondary actors. But behavior that was never communicated to the marketplace cannot be said to have induced reliance, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the majority.

Romney Obtains Crucial Win Over McCain in Mich. Primary

By John M. Broder  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who ran as a son of Michigan though he left the state nearly 40 years ago, won the Republican primary here with a message aimed at voters deeply anxious about the state’s economy and their own financial prospects.

Promising to revitalize the distressed automobile industry, Romney defeated his principal rival, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, by winning a clear plurality of Republicans and conservatives, who turned out in greater numbers than they had in the 2000 primary, which McCain won.

“Tonight marks the beginning of a comeback,” Romney said in declaring victory at a hotel rally in Southfield. “Tonight is a victory of optimism over Washington-style pessimism.”

Romney needed a victory in Michigan to save his candidacy after finishing second to McCain in New Hampshire and to Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, in Iowa. Huckabee finished third in Michigan.

Romney’s victory here means three different Republican candidates have

won each of the first three major contests. The race moves to South Carolina and Nevada this weekend with no clear front-runner and two credible candidates, Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, and former Sen. Fred D. Thompson of Tennessee, yet to seriously contest a state.

Recognizing the importance of winning here, Romney devoted considerably more time and money to Michigan than either of his chief rivals. He ran a much larger and more disciplined campaign and vastly outspent them on television, radio, direct mail and telephone appeals.

The economy and the troubles of the auto industry dominated the contest here from start to finish, with Romney seizing on McCain’s suggestion that the jobs lost “are not coming back.” Romney also capitalized on his business background and his father’s leadership in the auto industry to persuade voters that he was best equipped to deal with those problems.

Surveys of voters leaving the polls showed that 55 percent cited the economy as their biggest concern, and 40 percent cast their ballots for Romney.

A senior McCain adviser here said the Michigan result means that McCain

has to win in South Carolina to reassert his field-leading status. If he does not, this adviser said, it makes it more likely that even after Republicans in 21 states go to polls and caucuses on Feb. 5 there may be no decided leader.

By an overwhelming margin, the economy was the top concern of Michigan voters, dwarfing Iraq, immigration and terrorism. In Iowa, by contrast, only 26 percent of Republican caucusgoers cited the economy as the most important issue, behind immigration. In New Hampshire, the economy was cited as the top concern by 31 percent of Republican primary voters, followed closely by Iraq, at 24 percent, and immigration, at 23 percent.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, the only major candidate whose name was on the ballot in Michigan, was the winner on the Democratic side. Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina withdrew their names at the request of the national Democratic Party, which penalized Michigan with the loss of its delegates because the early date of its primary violated party rules.

But state party leaders said they believed the Michigan delegates would be seated.

In Market Downturn, Investors Reveal a Deepening Pessimism

By Vikas Bajaj  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The stock market fell sharply to its lowest level in nearly a year Tuesday after Citigroup announced a large quarterly loss and an economic report offered more evidence that consumers were cutting back.

The developments left many investors questioning assumptions about how bad things would get as a result of rising mortgage defaults and falling home prices. While the pain so far has been concentrated in the financial services, home building and related sectors, investors are growing fearful that it is spreading.

The Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index closed down 2.5 percent, or 35.30 points, at 1,380.95. The Dow Jones industrial average was off 277.04 points, or 2.2 percent, at 12,501.11. The Nasdaq

composite was down 60.71, close to 2.5 percent, at 2,417.59.

The S&P 500 is down 5.95 percent for the year, its third-worst performance in the first 10 trading sessions of any year, according to Howard Silverblatt, chief index analyst at S&P. The index fell further in 1939 (6.66 percent) and 1978 (5.96 percent).

“Right now, you have a market that is more of an emotional market than a rational market,” said Wayne Lin, an investment strategy analyst at Legg Mason’s global asset allocation division. “General human nature has it if there is an unknown out there, you fear the unknown.”

The day started with an announcement from Citigroup, the world’s largest bank, that it was taking a \$22.2 billion charge largely related to mortgage holdings, cutting its dividend by 41 percent

and raising \$12.5 billion in capital from foreign and domestic sources. Shares of Citigroup fell 7.3 percent, to \$26.94.

Merrill Lynch, which has also been rattled by its mortgage business, said it was raising \$6.6 billion from two sovereign wealth funds and a Japanese bank. Merrill stock was down 5.3 percent, to \$53.01.

Later in the morning, investors were taken aback by a 0.4 percent drop in retail sales in December, as sales fell for building materials, gasoline, clothing, electronics, and sporting goods. The Commerce Department, which reports the data, also revised downward its reports for sales in October and November.

“The momentum is down,” said James O’Sullivan, an economist with UBS. “Based on the limited information we have, January looks even weaker.”

WEATHER

Coastal Storm Brings Friday Rain

By Angela Zalucha  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

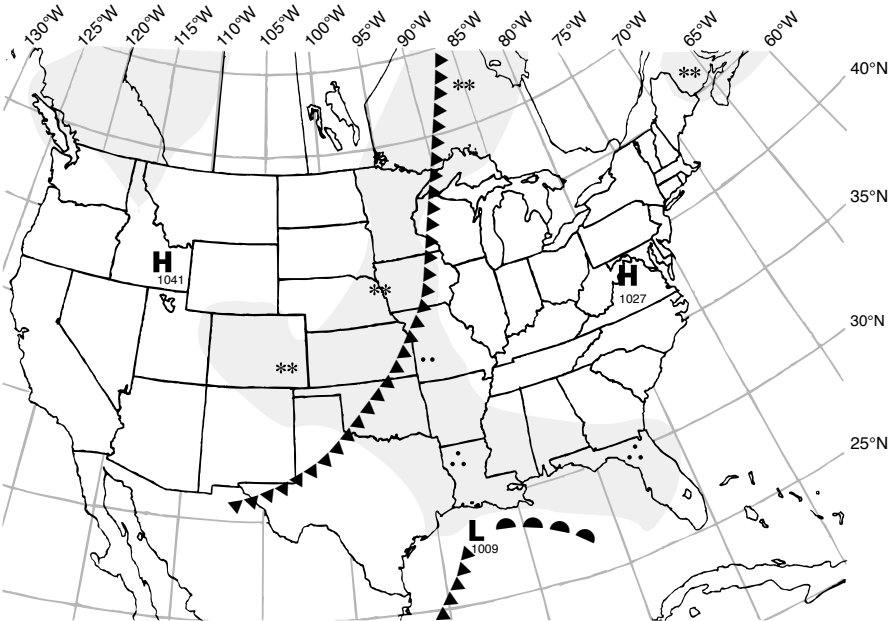
Monday’s snow storm brought seven inches of snow to Boston, which also happened to tie the record maximum snowfall for that date set in 1982. The city was lucky, since some numerical weather forecast models were predicting as much as 14 inches. An unusual event that occurred briefly with this storm was a report of thunder early Monday morning. Thunder and snow do not usually happen at the same time.

Today’s weather will be sunny as high pressure dominates the eastern part of the country. Clouds will be on the increase tomorrow as the next system moves in our direction. This system has nearly the same setup as the one from Monday, but a key difference in the forecasted position of the storm will bring us rain instead of snow. A small but powerful low pressure area will develop Thursday night over the mid-Atlantic states. The low pressure area will move northward, picking up moisture from the relatively warm ocean to our south. If the low pressure were to move more eastward out to sea, then the cold, inland air to our west could penetrate all the way to Boston and we would get snow as we did on Monday. Instead, the low pressure area will stay to the west, bringing with it warmer air from the south. This combination will result in rain on Friday. A slight change in the forecasted track of the system, however, could bring sleet or snow.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Sunny. High 36°F (2°C).  
**Tonight:** Clear. Low 22°F (-6°C).  
**Tomorrow:** Mostly cloudy. High 37°F (3°C).  
**Tomorrow night:** Cloudy with rain late. Low 33°F (1°C).  
**Friday:** Rain. High 44°F (7°C).  
**Saturday:** Partly sunny. High 38°F (4°C).  
**Sunday:** Partly sunny. Colder. High 26°F (-3°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, January 16, 2008



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Apple Announces Movie Rentals, Ultralight ‘Macbook Air’ Laptop

By John Markoff  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

Steven P. Jobs, Apple’s chief executive, took several big gambles on Tuesday, betting that he could repeat his success in selling digital music by convincing Hollywood to allow Apple to rent digital movies, while at the same time returning to his original Macintosh roots with an elegant — but limited — ultralight computer called the MacBook Air.

Jobs has made his keynote presentation at the opening of the Macworld Expo trade show here a consistent marketing tour de force in recent years. And although Jobs did not return to the heights of media frenzy that he reached with the introduction of the iPhone a year ago, his presentation on Tuesday trod familiar, and popular, ground.

While introducing products and services from Apple’s best-known areas, Jobs concentrated on the movie rental service and the new notebook computer.

The terms of the service are similar to those offered by other companies. In an interview after

the speech, Jobs insisted that Apple was the first distributor to persuade all of the major studios to join in its rental strategy. But the risk for Apple is that consumers may not like the limits placed on their movie viewing.

For the iTunes movie rentals, consumers will have 30 days to begin watching, then 24 hours to finish the movie before it is erased from the hard disk. Jobs said that after extended negotiations both sides felt this was an obvious strategy.

The movie studios, he said, knew it was time: “We talked to them and talked to them and finally a bit flipped. They know the rental model; we came to the conclusion it was the right model. It took months and it took a lot of discussions, but it wasn’t really that difficult once the bit flipped.”

In that interview, Jobs took pride in demonstrating the MacBook Air, a 3-pound notebook computer that will sell at a base price of \$1,799. Jobs said that in order to reach his goal of making the industry’s thinnest computer, Apple’s designers

made a series of trade-offs that the majority of laptop buyers may not appreciate.

The computer uses a 1.8-inch disk drive, on which no more than 80 gigabytes of data can be stored. Memory is limited to a standard 2 gigabytes of RAM and its processor is slower than those of Apple’s other laptops. The design team jet-tisoned an optical disk storage device for playing DVDs. Jobs demonstrated a feature called Remote Disk that will make it possible to play the contents of a DVD via a wireless network from another Macintosh or Windows PC. Also, the MacBook Air’s battery is not removable.

Responding to a question about the growing array of media, including digital photographs, movies and music, that now swell most users’ hard drives, Jobs responded, “Maybe this isn’t the computer for you.”

In the interview, Jobs chastised the recording industry for its efforts to handicap Apple and iTunes by offering digital music without digital rights management copy protection through competitors like Amazon.

## Israeli-Palestinian Fighting in Gaza Leaves at Least 18 Dead

By Isabel Kershner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

At least 18 Palestinians, including 13 members of the military wing of Hamas, were killed in Gaza early Tuesday by Israeli army fire, the highest death toll there in half a year.

During the army operation, a volunteer from Ecuador working in an Israeli kibbutz was killed by sniper fire from Gaza, the Israeli army said.

Palestinian militants shot at least 25 Qassam rockets and 25 mortar bombs into Israel, and Hamas, the militant Islamic group that took control of Gaza last June, threatened revenge. Five of the rockets landed in Sderot, an Israeli border town. One hit a house. Five residents were wounded, some moderately and some lightly, including a 5-year-old girl, according to the ambulance service. One rocket landed several miles north of Gaza, on a road in southern Ashkelon, an Israeli coastal city of 120,000, causing no casualties.

The violence escalated a day after top Israeli and Palestinian negotiators — the latter representing the West Bank leadership, which is alienated from Hamas — formally started peace talks.

Among the dead in Gaza was a son of Mahmoud Zahar, a senior leader and hard-liner of Hamas, the second son of his killed by Israeli forces in five years. The son killed Tuesday, Hussam Zahar, 21, was a member of the Hamas military wing, the Qassam Brigades, and was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the car in which he was traveling, said Taher Nunu, a spokesman for the Hamas government in Gaza. At least two Palestinian civilians were also killed in Gaza, and 45 Palestinians were wounded, hospital officials there said.

## Blast Near U.S. Embassy Van Kills Three Civilians Near Beirut

By Nada Bakri

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT, LEBANON

A bomb exploded next to a U.S. Embassy vehicle on Tuesday, killing at least three civilians and wounding many other people, including an American bystander and an embassy employee, Lebanese and U.S. officials said.

The explosion, which occurred as President Bush toured the region, was the first attack on U.S. interests in Lebanon since the 1983 truck bombing that killed 241 U.S. service members at the U.S. Marine barracks here.

Lebanese and Western officials said the embassy vehicle was probably the target of the attack, though no one claimed responsibility for the bomb and initial investigations could not determine if it had been placed under a car or on the side of the road.

The bomb blew up as the U.S. Embassy’s armored sport utility vehicle passed, narrowly missing it but wounding its driver and killing two Lebanese in the car behind it, and a Syrian bystander, security officials said.

At least 20 other passers-by and workers in nearby shops and offices were wounded.

The blast occurred on a coastal road north of Beirut, the capital, in a busy industrial district called Bourj Hammoud. It destroyed at least six cars, shattered windows nearby and tore masonry from buildings as workers prepared to finish for the day.

“The scene was inhumane; it was devastating,” said Alaa al-Hatil, 35, an Egyptian worker at a nearby shop. “There was blood and flesh everywhere. I could not look.”

## Kenyan Opposition Wins Round One in Parliament

By Jeffrey Gettleman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NAIROBI, KENYA

Judging from the opening session of Parliament on Tuesday, it looks like it is going to be a long political year in Kenya.

Parliament members, meeting for the first time since Kenya’s election crisis erupted last month, shouted at one another for an hour and a half over how to vote for a new speaker — whether the vote should be in secret — and then shouted some more when it came time to decide where to put the ballot box.

In the end, opposition leaders prevailed in the first political skirmish since the disputed election, installing their candidate in the influential position of the Parliament’s speaker.

It took three heated hours. Both sides hurled bitter accusations, with opposition leaders jumping out of their seats to accuse the party of President Mwai Kibaki of rigging the vote in the Dec. 27 election, and the president’s party yelling back that the opposition had instigated the burst of ethnically driven violence that followed it. On Tuesday, Red Cross officials said the nationwide death toll had risen to at least 612.

## Short on Fundraising, Red Cross Will Cut Jobs

By Stephanie Strom

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Facing a \$200 million operating deficit, the American Red Cross is preparing to cut as much as one-third of its headquarters staff, up to 1,000 employees, and pare regional management.

The cutbacks will not diminish the relief operations and other services provided by the organization, said Suzy C. DeFrancis, the Red Cross’ chief public affairs officer.

“We’ve just come to the conclusion that we’ve gotten too top heavy,” DeFrancis said, “that we are spending more than we are bringing in and that the fundraising environment is competitive.”

But she added, “We believe this exercise will make us strong” in delivering service.

She said the 126-year-old organization had not tapped its \$800 million endowment to cover the deficit but relied instead on loans that it uses as part of its normal cash-management process. Its budget in 2007 was \$3.45 billion, which includes its blood operations as well as its disaster services.

DeFrancis said she needed more time to determine whether the deficit was the largest in Red Cross history.

# FDA Announces That Food From Clones Is Safe for Humans to Eat

By Andrew Martin  
and Andrew Pollack

THE NEW YORK TIMES

After years of debate, the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday declared that food from cloned animals and their progeny is safe to eat, clearing the way for milk and meat derived from copies of prized dairy cows, steers and hogs to be sold at the grocery store.

The decision was hailed by cloning companies and some farmers, who have been pushing for government approval in hopes of turning cloning into a routine agricultural tool. Because clones are costly, they will be used primarily for breeding, not for producing milk, hamburgers and pork chops.

“This is a huge milestone,” said Mark Walton, president of ViaGen, a leading livestock cloning company in Austin, Texas.

Farmers had long observed a voluntary moratorium on the sale of clones and their offspring into the food supply. The FDA on Tuesday effectively lifted that for clone offspring. But another government agency, the Agriculture Depart-

ment, asked farmers to continue withholding clones themselves from the food supply, saying the department wanted time to allay concerns among retailers and overseas trading partners.

“We are very cognizant we have a global environment as it pertains to movement of agricultural products,” said Bruce I. Knight, undersecretary of agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs. He said it was his goal to have the transition last months, not years.

Animal breeding takes time, so even with Tuesday’s actions, it is likely to be several years before products from the offspring of clones are available at the grocery store in appreciable quantity.

While acknowledging that consumer acceptance remains a hurdle, proponents of cloning technology say it could have a major impact on the livestock industry by providing meat and milk that is better and more consistent.

“When you buy a box of Cheerios in New York and one in Champaign, Illinois, you know they are going to be the same,” said Jon Fisher, presi-

dent and owner of Prairie State Semen, in Illinois. “By shortening the genetic pool using clones, you can do a similar thing.”

“It could improve the quality of meat in the supermarket,” Fisher added. “It depends if customers allow it.”

Consumer groups immediately lambasted the FDA’s report, saying that the science remains inadequate and that many consumers oppose cloning for religious or ethical reasons. Some members of Congress had sought to delay a decision until further studies were completed.

“It flies in the face of Congress’ wishes. It flies in the face of consumer wishes,” said Michael Hansen, a senior scientist at Consumers Union, the advocacy group that publishes Consumer Reports.

But Stephen Sundlof, director of the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, said food from cloned animals was “indistinguishable” from that of conventionally bred animals.

“It is beyond our imagination to even have a theory for why the food is unsafe,” he said.

# Bush Tells Saudi Leaders That High Cost of Oil Hurts American Economy

By Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

President Bush on Tuesday urged Saudi Arabia and other members of OPEC to consider the strain the high cost of oil was having on the American economy, addressing an issue that has begun to color the last year of his presidency and dominate the presidential election campaign.

Speaking to a group of Saudi entrepreneurs and later to reporters, Bush expressed concern about the economy in some of his starkest language yet, saying that rising oil costs and gasoline prices were causing hardship for American families. He vowed to raise the issue with the Saudi leader, King Abdullah, during a meeting and dinner at the king’s lush horse farm in the desert outside of Riyadh, the capital.

“My point to His Majesty is going to be, when consumers have less purchasing power because of high prices of gasoline — in other words, when it affects their fami-

lies, it could cause this economy to slow down,” the president said in an expansive interview summarizing his eight-day trip to the Middle East. “If the economy slows down, there will be less barrels of oil purchased.”

It was unclear whether Bush’s entreaties alone will have any significant effect on the price of oil, since, as the president himself acknowledged, demand continues to rise faster than supplies, especially in expanding markets in China and India, as well as the United States.

Neither Abdullah nor Bush discussed the matter publicly as they met for dinner inside a tentlike hall on Tuesday night, exchanging pleasantries instead about the unusually cold weather. But Saudi Arabia’s oil minister, Ali al-Naimi, appeared to rebuff the president’s appeal earlier in the day.

Saudi Arabia, he said, shared the president’s concern that a downturn in the American economy could have profound effects around the world, including in the oil market. He even raised the prospect of “re-

cession,” a word Bush studiously avoided in the interview, even when pressed about “the R-word.” But Naimi said Saudi Arabia would raise production only “when the market justifies it.”

“Presidents and kings have every right, every privilege, to comment or ask or say whatever they want,” Naimi said in a news conference after Bush’s remarks. “The concern for the U.S. economy is valid, but what affects the U.S. economy is more than the price of oil.”

Bush’s remarks on oil, which came as voters went to the polls in the Michigan primary, underscored a growing worry inside the White House that the economy could sour in his final year in office.

Bush last met Abdullah in Crawford, Texas, in April 2005, before the Saudi leader’s half brother, King Fahd, died and he assumed the Saudi throne. Then, too, concern about rising oil prices prompted the Bush administration to prod Saudi Arabia, OPEC’s largest producer, to raise production to ease prices.



# OPINION

## Letters To The Editor



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### Open Letter to Prof. Joe Haldeman

Dear Mr. Haldeman,

You're probably going to get plenty of letters, and deservedly so, from angry people at MIT who are religious, but I think it's important that you also get at least one from an atheist. You're right, of course, that MIT is primarily about "science and engineering and mathematics" ("MIT Does Not Need a Chaplain," Jan. 9, 2008). However, we have a chaplain for much the same reason that we have adjunct faculty teaching science fiction writing: there is more to life than science. We have a large resident student population, and it is thus fair to expect the Institute to address, in some manner, the needs of their personal lives. Given the large

role of religion in the lives of a good proportion of the MIT community, I respect MIT's decision to add a chaplain, even if it's not a benefit of which I choose to avail myself. Whether or not we grew up in cultures "saturated in religion," I certainly hope that we don't now live in one that is saturated with mindless contempt for it.

Jonathan R. Birge G

### Chaplain Position Is Affront to MIT Tradition

In response to Professor Joe Haldeman's comment ("MIT Does Not Need a Chaplain," Jan. 9, 2008), I would just like to reinforce his issues and point out that this appointment is an

affront to the MIT tradition and culture of independence and anti-establishment attitude, a bastion of scientific reasoning.

When you walk past Killian Court along Memorial Drive and look up at the McLaurin buildings, the names you see inscribed are those of Newton, Galileo, Kepler, Pasteur, D'Alembert, etc., not those of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Mohammad. The famous inscription on Lobby 7 reads, "Established for the Advancement of Science its Applications to Industry the Arts Agriculture and Commerce" — there is no mention to any supposed superior being. Then why now has MIT decided to waste its students' tuition money so that a few of those students, against everything that is professed at this great institution, can get free, unlicensed psychological counseling?

Miguel Valença Pires G



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## ARTS

## DVD REVIEW ★★★

# Movies You May Have Missed

## Musical 'Once' Is Low-Key, Realistic, Enjoyable

By Alice Macdonald

STAFF WRITER

"Once"

Written and directed by John Carney

Starring: Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová

Rated R

**M**ovie musicals have enjoyed a bit of a revival lately, partly sparked by Baz Luhrman's 2001 hit, "Moulin Rouge." After a series of recent duds such as "Hairspray" and "The Producers," the genre is in need of a fresh perspective. This is exactly what "Once" delivers. I hesitate to even place "Once" in the same category as these other films because it is so much better and completely void of the painful clichés the mere phrase "movie musical" evokes. "High School Musical" this (thank God) is not.

The movie features Glen Hansard as a thirtysomething guy who works in his father's vacuum repair shop but mostly plays his guitar for tips on the streets of Dublin. He is lonely and in dire need of some inspiration when he chances upon a beautiful Czech girl played by Markéta Irglová. She sells flowers in the street and cleans houses while trying to support her mother and daughter. She is also — conveniently enough — a terrific pianist who dabbles in songwriting herself.

As far as plot, not a lot happens. There isn't any exhaustive action, fights, or love scenes. It mostly follows the two musicians as they decide to make music together. They assemble a band of street musicians and record a demo tape for Hansard's character to take to London with the hopes of landing a record deal. "Once" has been lauded as a love story, but I disagree. These two main characters (who are nameless) have a connection and need each other

for various reasons, but it is hardly romantic in the conventional sense. This is one of the best things about "Once." It doesn't end with the two main characters in each others arms as we expect (or even want). It manages to show something much more realistic.

"Once" is a film that starts out slow but really grows on you until you reach the end and wish that it hadn't come so soon. At first I was impatient with the film, but it managed to suck me in and make me appreciate even the flaws I could have criticized. As far as the ending, it may leave some viewers unhappy, but this was probably the part that made the film for me. The ending is entirely satisfying without giving into the conventions one expects for the perfect Hollywood happy ending.

There isn't much dialogue and instead the music takes center stage. Director John Carney lets the songs unfold without distracting direction. There are no dance numbers, no glitter, and no special effects. Carney also manages to weave the music into the film seamlessly. Early in the film, the two main characters play a song together in a music store where the owner lets Irglová's character play the piano during lunch. It doesn't at all seem strange that these two people should play music together, and therefore the audience is able to enjoy the moment without wondering why the hell actors are singing or when the regular movie will start again.

"Once" is one of those films that I had heard a lot about, but I just kept missing. Once it was released on DVD, I no longer had an excuse and neither do you. "Once" is the low-key answer to all those completely wretched movies based on musicals based on movies. It may not be for everyone, but it is worth checking out.



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová play the main characters in the 2006 film "Once."

## DVD REVIEW ★★★

# Movies You May Have Missed

## 'Superbad' Captures the High School Experience

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

"Superbad"

Directed by Greg Mottola

Written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg

Starring: Jonah Hill, Michael Cera, and Seth Rogen

Rated R

**A** seminal moment in the development of the "Superbad" plot (with every pun intended) is the revelation that one of the protagonists is obsessed with drawing male genitalia. The scene progresses through a shameless montage of phallic artistry that effectively sums up the film as a whole: much like watching a car crash between two fertilizer trucks, "Superbad" both shocks and disgusts, yet leaves the audience absolutely spellbound. Essentially, if you can't appreciate the humor and splendor of a picture of a human-sized penis leading a marching band down the street, you should probably not watch this movie.

"Superbad" tells an ancient tale. A tale older than recorded time. A tale first told when our most primitive slimy ancestor crawled out of the primordial oceans looking for something to hump. Two teenage friends, Seth and Evan (played by Jonah Hill and Michael Cera, respectively), spend the day trying to get drunk and get laid. Like a deranged carpenter, "Superbad" furiously hits every nail on the head when it comes to the high school experience: the awkward interactions with the opposite sex, the frantic search for somebody with a fake ID, and the late-night sexual liaison broken up by vomiting. Moreover, the film does a sincere job at addressing the more serious aspects of the high school experience, like the inevitable straining of friendships after graduation and the growing process that entails. "Superbad" isn't just a movie — "Superbad" is life.

Like late night HBO, "Superbad" explores multiple teenage male fantasies at once, and as always, the direction of one's path is determined by who's riding in the police car. After an alcohol purchase goes awry, the ill at ease but somewhat endearing Seth and Evan are taken to a party by an ex-con in the hopes of stealing alcohol for a high school gathering. Simultaneously, their incorrigibly dorky friend, Fogell (Christopher Mintz-Plasse), is taken for a drunken ride by a pair of Star Wars-obsessed cops while still posing as the person described



MELISSA MOSELEY—COLUMBIA PICTURES

Actors Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Jonah Hill, and Michael Cera (left to right) star in the 2007 film "Superbad" as Fogell, Seth, and Evan, respectively.

by his fake ID, a 25-year-old Hawaiian simply named "McLovin." The film covers pretty much every dream that one can imagine having as a high school student: hooking up with hot girls, going to adult parties, and lighting squad cars on fire. Moreover, the film contains perhaps the single most priceless line ever, when a drunk police officer warns underage partygoers that "I assume you all have guns and crack." Smells like high school to me.

Make no mistake, however: in case you

couldn't tell, the film's humor is far from high-brow. "Superbad" is to Shakespeare as a rhino defecating on a piece of canvas is to a Monet: twice as awesome, but a little bit less subtle. "Superbad" is the stereotypical teen movie gone horribly, beautifully right. It's like "High School Musical" if you removed the singing, dancing, and morals, and added an unhealthy dose of hormones, substance abuse, and awesomeness. It's an improvement, to say the least.

Perhaps the best element of "Superbad," however, is the fact that there really isn't much (or any) redeeming moral value. The film sends a gloriously depraved and morally destitute message to thousands of young high school teenagers the world over: if you illegally procure alcohol and light cop cars on fire, you will have lots of sex with people who are much more attractive than you. And if that's not the American dream, I don't know what is.

# CAMPUS LIFE

## *It's a Big, Big World*

### *Welcome to Argenchindia*

By Diana Jue

STAFF COLUMNIST

Here are some interesting numbers:

¶ About one-third of the world lives in slums. In Buenos Aires, an estimated 300,000 to 500,000 of its 3 million inhabitants (roughly 10 to 17 percent) live in shantytowns that are locally known as *villas miserias*, or “neighborhoods of misery.”

¶ Since 1997, over 25,000 Indian farmers have committed suicide because of crop failure, chemical fertilizers that render their soil infertile, loss of agriculture land, and global competition. Even though India is experiencing an economic boom from its high-tech service industry, 60 percent of the workforce remains in agriculture.

¶ Although China's average annual GDP growth rate has been 9.5 percent since it opened its economy in 1978, it ranked 128 out of 183 countries in highest nominal GDP per capita in 2006. The United States' GDP per capita was 20 times that of China, and approximately 30 million Chinese citizens are living on less than \$1 a day.

Is that a lot to process? Is that a lot to even imagine? Is that something worth caring about? My initial reaction to these statistics was: Dang. Yet these are the types of numbers and facts that I read and heard, saw and experienced in person during my four months abroad last fall.

As part of a group of 35 students, I literally traveled around the world to four cities in three countries to study and compare cities (I'm one of the few but proud Course XI undergraduate majors at MIT, by the way). In each city, I heard lectures from local experts who specialize in

topics like economics, urban planning, culture, and public policy. I also attended classes conducted by three traveling faculty members and a faculty member from each city.

But when learning about cities and urban issues, there is no better classroom than the city itself. For example, one afternoon following a day of rain, I trudged through the unpaved roads of Villa 21, a Buenos Aires shantytown and interviewed church workers there. I've seen poor migrant workers wandering the streets of Beijing and Shanghai in hopes of securing a new life. I was part of a 10-student, four-faculty member group that was involved in a property dispute in Bangalore. After a violent two-hour showdown on the shoulder of the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor, we ended up spending four hours filing a police report at the local station. The incident even made the evening news and the morning newspaper.

I thought this trip would provide answers to the fuss being made over rapid urbanization, income disparities, and environmental harms due to industrialization. Now, after six-and-a-half notebooks of lecture notes, journal entries, observations, reflections, and class discussion notes, as well as one month spent in the United States, where am I with regard to what I've learned? Although I definitely received more information, I feel like the number of questions I formulated based on new information far outweighed the amount of new information given to me.

The questions varied. Some brought me back to basics: What exactly are “development” and “globalization”? Who benefits and who is harmed? Why does this affect me? Some

questions were theoretical: What is the public, and how can it be established to ensure a fairer society? Does modernization have to result in Westernization? Others drew on experience. For example, during the Bangalore incident, local police were at the scene but did nothing to stop the fight. We suspect that the corridor's developer had paid them to look after the road. If this were true, then how does corruption affect who is involved in the process of politics — the art of getting things done?

Truthfully, I'm still processing everything from the eye-opening experience. I'll most likely be learning from this experience until I die. But for now, my conclusion at the end of this trip is ridiculously and almost embarrassingly simple: This world is big, and a lot of crazy things are happening in it.

Therefore, I'm writing this column with three goals in mind. The first goal is to raise awareness about some pertinent global issues, because, again, a lot of crazy things are happening in this big world of ours, and even as students on the other side of the globe we are affected and affect others. I'll be discussing, among other topics, poverty, global economies, global cultures, environmentalism and environmental justice, and activism. I'm definitely

no expert, but I'll offer what I've learned, seen, and thought about to a student body that I'm confident can do something.

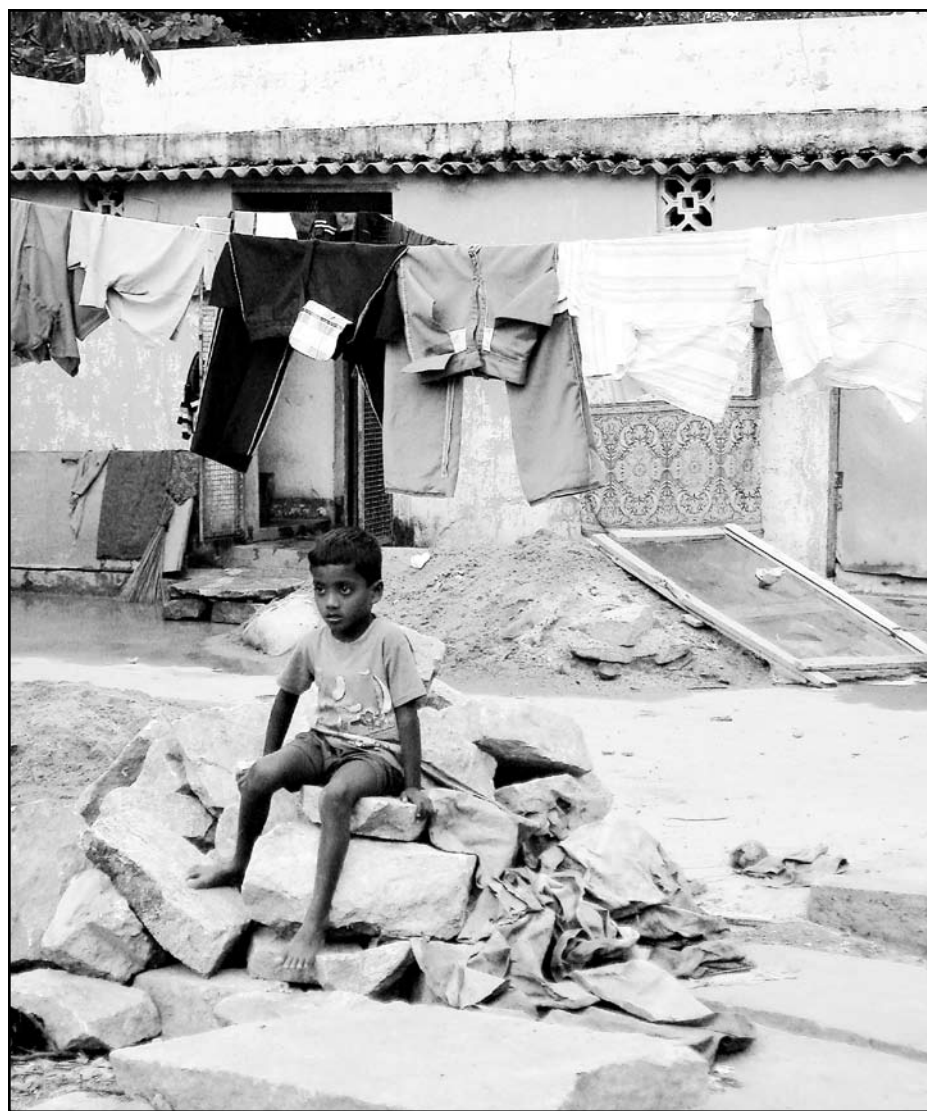
The second goal is to question — to question what I've experienced and to encourage more questions. There exist many questions or problems that need answers or solutions, and there exist many questions that haven't been thought of yet but are worth talking about.

The third goal is to encourage change as a collective and as an individual. This is something I've been thinking about since I finished the program in Shanghai. What are changes that I can make in my daily lifestyle now that I've seen how others live and how my lifestyle impacts the larger world? One small, simple example is doing less laundry to conserve water and energy (but not to the point where in become unhygienic or bothersome). I was able to live on two pairs of pants for four months, and really, it wasn't difficult. Another example is reducing consumption. I've bought nothing but used books and food for myself since I've been home.

Hopefully I've caught someone's attention. If those first three numbers at the beginning of this little spiel had any effect or meant anything, stay tuned. That is just the beginning.



Shanghai's explosive growth has fueled the rapid development of tall, architectural marvels.



A child watches a cricket game in one of Bangalore's slum areas.

## *Brouhaha Rhythm*

### *Zen and the Art of Relaxation*

By Michael T. Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

Ah, it's good to be home. My sibling is toiling away at high school and my classmates are trudging 15 miles uphill both ways through the less-than-tropical climate of winter in Cambridge. Meanwhile, I'm warming my toes in luxurious Virginia. Sure, it's not sunny California or Hawaii, but it's where the heart is, no doubt about it.

Alas, it is true that I'm missing out on a lot of fascinating classes and activities over the Independent Activities Period. I saw a listing for an event on medieval clothing that I would've liked to attend. I daresay I would look rather cunning in a cloak, if only because it hides my scrawny, semi-muscular frame. Still, being at home gives me a good chance to kick back for a while after my first semester, and I don't need doctor's orders to tell me when I've had too much excitement. I've been waiting to de-stress for a while, and I'm taking the opportunity while I have it.

The ancient and revered art of relaxation for relaxation's sake (not to be confused with

punting, relaxation for procrastination's sake) dates back to the dawn of civilization, when free time became more readily available with the advent of agriculture. Before then, slackers generally either starved or were eaten, depending on the native wildlife. The ancient Mesopotamians took the art to an entirely new level through an ancestral form of what college students everywhere now know and love as beer. It has been speculated that the fall of the Roman Empire was caused by a combination of increasingly widespread alcohol consumption and the use of lead Solo cups.

Activating another waypoint in the journey to relaxing as we know it today, Marco Polo returned to medieval Europe in 1295 bearing silk, gold, bootlegged DVDs, and inexpensive manufactured goods. Subsequent European exposure to relaxation in its purest form, meditation, was a key event in the develop-

ment of anti-stress techniques. Meditation's cousin, power-napping, naturally forms the cornerstone of all sleep taken by the average college student throughout their academic careers. Unfortunately, despite Polo's travels in the neighborhood, it wasn't until much later that the lifeblood known as ramen made its

way here from Japan. Japan itself is perhaps the greatest contributor to modern slacking of any country on the planet. Barring the electronics and auto industries, the anime and manga phenomenon, and sushi bars, I think

the word “Nintendo” pretty much renders the case closed.

The next stop on our guided tour of the history of slacking is turn-of-the-20th-century America with narrative cinema. Watching grown men sneeze and locomotives steam was captivating when motion pictures were first born, but it wasn't until movies had plot lines

*The ancient and revered art of relaxation for relaxation's sake dates back to the dawn of civilization.*

that college audiences began to pay attention to them. The strength of the plot lines, as often as not, was immaterial. Television would do much the same thing a few decades later, although the appearance of reality shows threatens to convert television-based slacking from a hobby into an addictive substance.

The final chapter in de-stressing, at least for a good long while, is the Internet. Between Wikipedia, YouTube, and Facebook, every moment from now until Doomsday could probably be accounted for without being remotely productive. Net-surfing, however, will probably only remain prominent so long as our generation's eyesight holds out. *C'est la vie.*

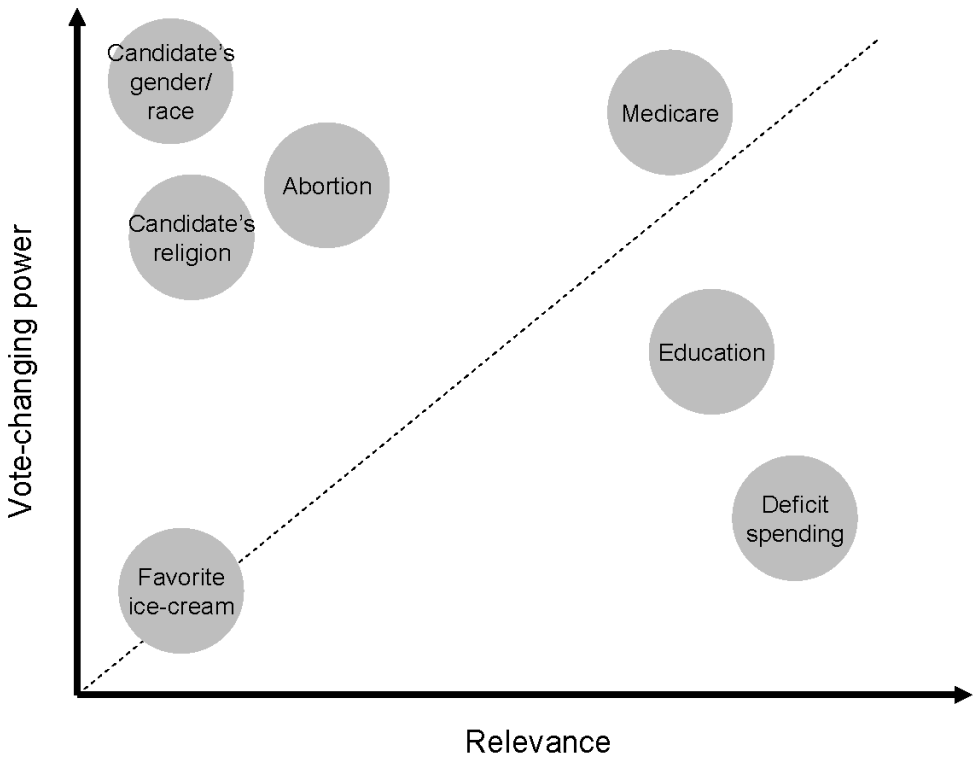
Thus concludes a brief history of killing time. I emphasize “brief” because it has not escaped my attention that I've skipped virtually the entire history of the written word, simply because, if you're reading this, you already know how to pick up objects made of paper and comprehend the symbols written on it.

Unless, of course, you're reading this on the Tech Web site. In which case, feel free to look me up on Facebook.



Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer



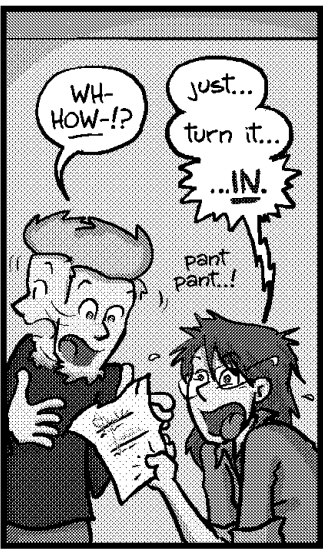
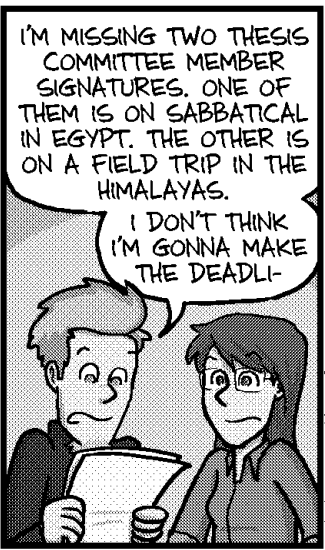
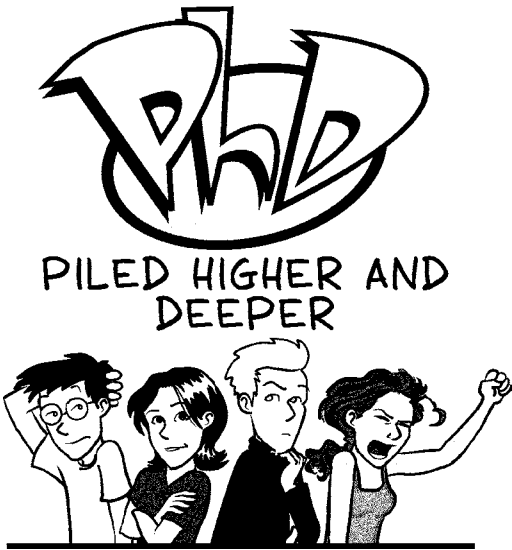
**Figure 24:** The graph shows the ability of different issues to change voter's preferences according to relevance. The latter is defined as the percentage of the population that is directly affected by a specific issue. As shown, most issues fall far from the theoretical prediction (45-degree line), which illustrates the irrationality that prevails in the election process. For instance, a candidate's gender is as relevant as his/her choice of ice-cream, but affects the outcome of elections considerably more. On the other hand, most voters are comfortable with the government spending more than it collects, so they worry little about federal deficit, even when this issue may turn the economy around. Anecdotal evidence exists for the vote-changing power of "emotional sobbing", but it has been omitted here for lack of generality.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>. See also solution, page 11.



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Mixture
- 6 Doctor's tablet
- 10 \_\_\_ won't hurt a bit
- 14 Outcast
- 15 Sandusky's lake
- 16 Swear words?
- 17 Greek marketplace
- 18 Like felt
- 19 Phish guitarist Anastasio
- 20 Brass novels?
- 23 Paris palace
- 24 TiVo button
- 25 Tends to the furnace
- 28 Confiscates
- 33 To a degree
- 37 Heck, yeah!
- 38 Rupture
- 39 Brass breeds?
- 42 Blackjack winner
- 43 Little links item

- 44 Perceives
- 45 Deep operatic voices
- 46 Time off, for short
- 48 Sgt., e.g.
- 50 Aerie resident
- 55 Brass edges?
- 60 Beer choices
- 61 Writer Haley
- 62 Type of radiation
- 63 Wrath
- 64 Exceedingly dry
- 65 Glowing coal
- 66 Portable music device
- 67 "East of \_\_\_"
- 68 Leopard's markings

DOWN

- 1 World-weary
- 2 Type of pad or brief
- 3 Adhesive

- substance
- 4 Peter and Franco
- 5 Hung in loose folds
- 6 Mexican coin
- 7 Wrinkle remover
- 8 Full-term inmates
- 9 Don't bother
- 10 Oz pooch
- 11 Listen!
- 12 Residents of: suff.
- 13 Short
- 21 Directly
- 22 Double quartet
- 26 Work wk. start
- 27 Pitiful piece of art?
- 29 Fine or martial follower
- 30 Leg bender
- 31 Leprechaun's land
- 32 Give lip

- 33 Shot in the dark
- 34 Killer whale
- 35 "The Simpsons" tavern
- 36 CPR experts
- 38 One obeying
- 40 Existence
- 41 D.C. VIP
- 46 Turned over
- 47 Stovetops
- 49 Knock off
- 51 Pop's pop
- 52 Dance with a lowered pole
- 53 Irish patriot Robert
- 54 Old autocrats
- 55 To-do
- 56 Building block
- 57 From the thrift store, perhaps
- 58 On this very spot
- 59 Yoked beasts
- 60 Jackie's second

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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# Ward Leaves Behind a ‘Robust’ Student Group Finance System

Ward, from Page 1

tion of the Student Activities Office, Wartman said.

“The position grew a lot in her eight years, and student needs have changed,” said Wartman. “We want to get the right person for the job.”

According to Wartman, Ward’s departure should not change student group routines very much, since the rest of the SAO staff have absorbed Ward’s responsibilities for now. Al-

though Ward’s departure leaves the SAO shorthanded, Wartman said that “if groups feel like they need something, they should feel free to reach out to me and ask about what they need.”

Ward said she hopes that groups will be patient and understanding with regards to the fact that her former office will be understaffed.

In Ward’s new position as financial administrator of HST, she will handle the finances of the department’s grad-

uate students by disbursing research and teaching assistantships and fellowships.

Ward said that she took the position, which she found on MIT’s Human Resources Web site, because she was “looking for professional growth opportunities.” She said she regrets that she won’t get as much contact with undergraduates, but that she is pleased to remain on campus.

The main challenge facing the SAO will be to ensure the financial office “continues to meets the changing needs of the student population, especially as each group of new [student] leaders has new expectations,” Ward said. She said she would also like to see more educational programs, such as workshops, incorporated into the services the office provides. Efforts to run such programs have been hindered by staffing constraints in recent years.

Ward joined the SAO in January 2000, after working on freshman advising in the Academic Resource Center (now the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Performance).

When Ward joined the office, it only processed a small number of financial requests. Since then, the office has grown significantly, as student groups were no longer permitted to hold outside bank accounts. Ward’s position also grew so that while she was still responsible for student accounts, she also advised new or struggling student groups. She also assumed the task of educational outreach, taking a proactive approach toward getting information out to students.

Much of Ward’s eight years with the SAO involved interacting directly with students, an aspect that Ward explained “is a must in any position I have.”

Ward said she is proud of the “extremely robust” state in which she has left student activities’ finances. She said that the recovery after a safe was stolen from her office in December demonstrates that the finances of the SAO can “withstand turmoil ... and absorb adversity.”



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# Sloan Students Hunt for Jobs In California ‘Valley Tech Trek’

By Robert Weisman  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

PALO ALTO, CALIF.

The annual mating ritual between elite business schools and the talent-hungry technology industry this year lured a record 115 master of business administration candidates from MIT's Sloan School of Management in Cambridge to the hillside campus of VMware Inc., one of Silicon Valley's hottest companies.

Diane B. Greene SM '78, VMware chief executive, herself an MIT graduate, greeted the visitors milling over tofu kabobs and Oregon red wine. "We would love to have you guys talk to us about joining the company," Greene said. "We're a meritocracy. If you're talented, you'll move up very quickly."

The next morning, the group toured Google Inc.'s quirky Googleplex in Mountain View, where eight newly minted MBAs from Sloan's class of 2007 are working. After marveling at tent-like meeting rooms called "yurts," and "nap pods" where Googlers can snooze in noise-muffling chambers, the students were assured by Claire Callaghan, a Google recruiting coordinator, "There should be a microkitchen no more than 100 feet away from every workstation at Google."

Help wanted. That was the message to the Silicon Valley Tech Trek, an expedition by Sloan's graduate business students searching for jobs or internships at the nation's most dynamic companies. But their January hunt took place 3,000 miles away from Sloan's campus on the Charles River. The students were seeking their fortune not in Kendall Square or the Route 128 beltway, which have long staked their claims as American high-tech hubs, but in California's Bay Area.

Boston-area industry figures, while proud of their region's own technology heritage, are well aware of the appeal of the Valley.

"Yes, I wish we could have more anchor companies," said Joyce Plotkin, president of the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, a trade group for software and other tech businesses. "I think our culture does not value entrepreneurs the way the West Coast does. Historically, most of our companies are in the business-to-business market, and that's a tougher sell. To someone who's 21 years old, it looks more exciting to work at consumer-oriented companies."

Northern California is home to more than 9,700 MIT alums, the largest concentration outside Boston, and the number has been rising every year. Last year, another 47 new MBAs — fully 16 percent of Sloan's graduating class of 2007 — took up residence here, mostly in Silicon Valley and San Francisco. This year's New Year trek to the Bay Area, the largest ever, drew more than twice the number of Sloan students that took part in a similar trek in the Boston area last week.

The reason, say participants, is that California continues to sprout the kind of game-changing technology companies rare in Boston these days. Wide-eyed Sloan trekkers last week dropped by high-tech giants such as Google, Apple Inc., Yahoo Inc., and eBay Inc., companies that have captivated consumers around

the world.

They also called on companies transforming business computing, like VMware, whose "virtualization" software lets customers save money by running multiple operating systems on computer servers, and Salesforce.com, which pioneered the "software-as-a-service" model that enables businesses to purchase software cheaply and piecemeal over the Internet rather than leasing it in bulk from costly vendors.

Even those students who want to launch companies or join startups, part of a smaller cohort on the Silicon Valley trek from Sloan's Entrepreneurship & Innovation program, couldn't pass up the chance to check out the Valley's iconic technology companies. "Half the group is interested in working here, and the other half just wants to see it," said Joshua G. Miller G, a first-year Sloan student on the Google tour.

All the technology companies here talked of expansion, even as the U.S. economy teeters on the brink of a recession. "Everybody's hiring," said Harpreet Singh G, an MBA candidate. "The companies are pulling out all the stops for us." Based on discussions with the Valley companies they visited, Sloan officials expect more than a dozen of their 2008 graduates will be hired at VMware, perhaps six to eight at Salesforce.com, and several more at Google and Yahoo.

Others will join some of the hundreds of venture-backed startups dotting the Valley, many of them still operating in "stealth" mode before their formal launch. They're housed in spots like the PlugandPlay Tech Center, a Sunnyvale incubator for about 115 technology startups, where a flag bearing the MIT logo hung above a row of cubicles.

"They want our guys," said Kenneth P. Morse '68, managing director of the MIT Entrepreneurship Center, noting Sloan's focus on preparing students to run high-tech firms. "We produce the kinds of people they need in the rough-and-tumble crucible of Silicon Valley."

Sloan students wearing dark suits and ties at most stops, on instructions from Morse who "didn't want to convey a sense of entitlement," paraded through Valley companies where executives wore faded jeans and sweatshirts. Sloan alum Jason W. Garoutte MBA '99, a vice president of field operations at Salesforce.com, boasted of his company's "Aloha culture," complete with Hawaiian shirts and "Mahalo bonuses," to Sloan students packed into a Salesforce conference room in San Francisco's financial district. Citing the loyalty of his fellow employees, Garoutte admitted, "We drank the Kool-Aid."

Trekkers said they viewed the Bay Area as a mecca for ambitious techies, whether their background is engineering, finance, product development, or marketing. "It's vibrant," said Kevin J. Knight G, another Sloan first-year student. "Even if you try and fail here, there'll be a second try. The culture is accepting of that. There are very few economic ecosystems in the U.S. where that's the case."

Mira Wilczek G, a Sloan student and a semifinalist in MIT's \$100K business plan competition who created an online video player, said she plans to start her own Internet video company. While she'd like to launch

it in Boston, she is drawn to the Valley, partly because of its proximity to entertainment companies that could supply videos for her startup.

Others were attracted to what they described as the Valley's culture of pure capitalism. "The biggest thing you notice here is the entrepreneurial energy is off the charts," said Sloan student Brian B. Dong G.

Not everyone was prepared to go West after graduating, however. "I'd love to move out here if I was single, but I have a wife, a house, a kid on the way," said Chester Liu G, a Sloan student who grew up in Winchester and plans to work in Internet and mobile technology. "I think Silicon Valley has almost a mythical image of how exciting it is, and I wanted to come out and experience it myself. Because my career is committed to Boston, I'd like to bring some of this energy home."

Sam B. Israelit SM '93, a partner at consulting firm Bain & Co. and a 1993 graduate of the Sloan School, last year relocated from Bain's office in Boston to its Palo Alto office, which hosted Sloan trekkers this month. His message to his visitors: "We'd like to have more Sloan alums on the West Coast. I don't have 3 feet of snow in my yard."

# Gray Steps Down After 12 Years as HST Head

Gray, from Page 1

"Institutions around the country and now the world are looking at HST as a model for education and research that spans disciplines, specialties and professions," Gray said in an e-mail interview. "I'm excited about a future where collaboration is the norm and where it is commonplace for physicians, scientists, engineers and business people to work together to tackle and solve our most challenging medical problems."

Under Gray and Bonventre, HST expanded from a graduate program in medicine and engineering to a program with interdisciplinary initiatives like the Biomedical Enterprise Program, which grants dual degrees in health science and management with the Sloan school, and the Graduate Education in Medical Sciences training program, which gives graduate students from other departments additional training in medicine. The two directors also helped start the Biomatrix mentoring program for undergraduates interested in the health sciences.

"I am proud of what we have built together over the past decade and, as we enter the next, it seems a natural and opportune time to turn over the reins to new leadership," Gray wrote in an e-mail to the HST community in November.

A search committee comprised of HST faculty members, chaired by Professor Emery N. Brown, will identify candidates to replace Gray. Because HST operates under two equal co-directors — and the other current director, David E. Cohen, hails from Harvard — Gray's replacement will "most likely" come from MIT, said Bonventre.

Bonventre, who served alongside Gray for his entire eight-year term as director, said that Gray has forged a legacy of fierce advocacy for HST's 400-plus student body. "She's always been focused on students and what's best for them and presenting opportunities for them," Bonventre said.

Cohen said he envisions further growth to follow in this spirit of integration and collaboration. Among other things, he mentioned making real-world experience more available for students by leveraging the presence of HST alumni in place at local hospitals, as well as establishing a relationship with Harvard's developing bioengineering program.

"There are more challenges ahead — and more opportunities," Cohen said.

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Solution to Crossword  
from page 7

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A	G	O	R	A	S	O	F	T	T	R	E	Y
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I	P	O	D		E	D	E	N		S	P	O

Solution to Sudoku  
from page 7

8	4	5	7	2	9	1	6	3
9	1	2	3	4	6	5	8	7
7	3	6	1	5	8	2	9	4
3	6	8	5	1	2	7	4	9
1	5	7	8	9	4	6	3	2
4	2	9	6	3	7	8	5	1
6	9	3	2	7	5	4	1	8
5	7	4	9	8	1	3	2	6
2	8	1	4	6	3	9	7	5



# Faculty Debate Text of Motion, Benefits of Public Statements

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

sion of a hoax device. MIT issued a widely-quoted press release calling her actions “reckless.” (See right for the full statement.) It is still not clear who wrote that press release; McCants said that, at a Committee on Student Life meeting, Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75 was asked who wrote the release, but he declined to respond.

At the Oct. 17 faculty meeting, the next monthly meeting after Simpson’s arrest, Winston and Professor Kenneth R. Manning introduced a motion expressing their discontent with the MIT press release.

That motion was tabled after about an hour of inconclusive discussion; the November faculty meeting was cancelled because it fell near the Thanksgiving holiday; and the faculty continued discussing the resolution at its next meeting on Dec. 19.

At that meeting, Manning said he heard about the events at Logan in an airport as he was on the way back to Boston, and that he was outraged to hear on CNN that MIT had called Star’s actions “reckless.” He said that, when MIT’s statement was released, “the mood around me turned uglier ... the public saw Star as reckless in part because MIT had said so.”

Manning said that he was con-

## MIT’s Sept. 21, 2007 Press Release

MIT is cooperating fully with the State Police in the investigation of an incident at Logan Airport this morning involving Star Simpson, a sophomore at MIT. As reported to us by authorities, Ms. Simpson’s actions were reckless and understandably created alarm at the airport.

SOURCE: MIT NEWS OFFICE

cerned MIT’s statement may influence or prejudice a court’s decision on whether Simpson’s actions were reckless.

Winston said at the Dec. 19 meeting that his concern extended beyond Simpson’s arrest to other recent events where MIT gave public statements, including the resignation of Marilee Jones and the Institute’s lawsuit against architect Frank O. Gehry.

“It doesn’t have anything to do with the particular incident or person,” Winston said in an interview. “It has to do with observing community values that have been cherished at MIT for a very long time, and those community values have to do with leaders taking care of their people with a view towards making MIT a better place than it was when they became leaders. It’s ultimately about how the leaders at every level think about the people who report to them.”

Professor Bish Sanyal, chair of the Faculty Policy Committee, said in the Dec. 19 meeting that the FPC

had met with Clay to discuss the faculty’s concerns about MIT’s public statements. Sanyal said he was “ultimately convinced that the administration was listening and making an effort.”

But another member of the FPC, Professor Helen Lee, was not satisfied with the administration’s response. She said at the Dec. 19 faculty meeting that “the committee was critical of the administration’s actions in the Star Simpson case and of Clay’s principles,” and she said that she did not think the committee’s “concerns had been allayed.” In a later interview, Lee said that she had not attended the final FPC meeting at which the motion was discussed; she noted that she had been sick that day and that the motion had not been on the meeting’s agenda.

During the discussion, Winston called the meeting an “offensive environment where department chairs ask their faculty to vote in particular ways without a secret ballot.” He likened the meeting’s atmosphere to harassment.

In an interview, Sanyal said he was concerned by the lack of civility at the faculty meeting. Former MIT president Paul E. Gray ’54 was interrupted while trying to speak by faculty who questioned whether he had the right to speak.

Chancellor Clay proposed an alternate motion to amend and replace Winston and Manning’s. Clay’s motion listed five principles that he said MIT had adopted after hearing complaints about the way it commented on the Simpson case. Clay said those principles would let MIT speak out when doing so might help students. He said that Winston and Manning’s motion was overly broad since it offered a blanket prohibition on public statements.

A heated two-hour discussion followed Clay’s proposed amendment. Though Clay’s amendment was quickly defeated, faculty continued to speak out about the wording of the motion and the wisdom of forming policies based on a single problem. “Bad cases make bad law,” said Institute Professor Sheila Widnall ’61.

Most of the speakers said that while they opposed MIT’s statement about “reckless” actions, they thought the proposed resolution did not properly express their sentiments. Associate Professor Shankar Raman ’86 said that “the problem is that the resolutions are ambiguous,” speaking of both Clay’s amendment and Winston and Manning’s original motion.

Ultimately, the Winston-Manning motion was voted down, with 31 in favor and 36 in opposition. Another alternate proposal, offered by Professor Peter A. Diamond PhD ’63, said only that the faculty disapproved of the original press release. Diamond’s proposal was also voted down.

President Susan Hockfield moderated the discussion.

Winston said in a later interview that although the motion was defeated, he felt the point had been made. “We felt that we had to make a powerful statement. We made that statement. I felt that it was made in a way that the statement was heard, and now it’s time for us all to start working together to make MIT a better place.”



MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH  
**A snowman decorates the snowy lawn of Kresge Oval early Tuesday morning.**

## Motion Presented at Oct. 17 and Dec. 19 Faculty Meetings

In light of the Star Simpson event, we, the MIT faculty, request that the MIT administration refrain from making public statements that characterize or otherwise interpret — through news office releases, legal agents, or any other means — the behavior and motives of members of the MIT community whose actions are the subject (real or potential) of pending criminal investigation. We offer this resolution to foster mutual trust within the MIT community and to promote due process for all.

October 17, 2007  
Sponsored by Professors Kenneth R. Manning and Patrick H. Winston

SOURCE: FACULTY MEETING AGENDA, INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

## Amended Motion Presented at Dec. 19 Faculty Meeting

In light of the Star Simpson event and in the interest of more effective communication, we, the MIT faculty, request that the MIT administration consider the following principles when making public statements that might characterize or otherwise interpret — through news office releases, legal agents, or any other means — the behavior and motives of members of the MIT community

- ¶ Select language carefully so as not to prejudge the situation or the individual(s) involved;
- ¶ Be guided by applicable privacy laws (FERPA);
- ¶ Make statements that do not characterize individuals — only the incident; avoid judgments that might adversely affect the individual in potential criminal proceedings;
- ¶ Give due consideration to institutional or public sentiments and, when appropriate, provide context that will contribute to institutional and public understanding;
- ¶ In all cases and beyond any press considerations, provide support to students.

We offer this resolution to foster mutual trust within the MIT community and to promote due process for all.

Sponsored by Chancellor Philip L. Clay PhD ’75

SOURCE: FACULTY MEETING

## Amended Motion Proposed at Dec. 19 Faculty Meeting

In light of the Star Simpson event, we, the MIT faculty, wish that the MIT administration had refrained from making its statement about her behavior.

Sponsored by Professor Peter A. Diamond PhD ’63

SOURCE: FACULTY MEETING

## Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between Dec. 3, 2007 and Jan. 9, 2008. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- Dec. 3:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:21 a.m., Breaking and entering, report of large safe stolen.
- Dec. 6:** M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 8:22 a.m., Breaking and entering, party reports theft of projector.  
W89 (291 Vassar St.), 12:55 p.m., Credit card fraud.
- Dec. 7:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 1:09 p.m., Breaking and entering, report of locker in Student Center broken into.
- Dec. 8:** M6 (182 Rear Memorial Dr.), 2:07 a.m., Person reported two individuals trying to break into office.
- Dec. 10:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave.), 8:46 a.m., Routine check and inquiry, Ismael Maisonet, 901 Roosevelt Towers, Cambridge, Mass., arrested on default warrant.  
M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 1:08 p.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of projector.  
E19 (400 Main St.), 7:40 p.m., Assist Cambridge Police with a disturbance between a taxi driver and a pedestrian at the corner of Main St. and Ames St.
- Dec. 11:** E38 (292 Main St.), 3:33 p.m., Reporting person states two males are posing as DARE officers or magazine salesmen in an attempt to solicit money.
- Dec. 12:** M46, 5:25 p.m., Reporting person reports she was verbally abused by bike riders.  
M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 6:57 p.m., Check and inquiry on person; Brian Glennon, 92 Emerson St., Boston, Mass., arrested on outstanding warrant.
- Dec. 14:** W20 (84 Mass. Ave. first floor), 5:36 p.m., MIT Police respond to W20 for a report of a past domestic incident; arrest of Zandile T. Williams, 362 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, Mass., for domestic assault and battery.
- Dec. 17:** M66 (25 Ames St.), 2:47 p.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of chairs.
- Dec. 20:** M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 10:37 a.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of two laptops.
- Dec. 21:** N52 (265 Mass. Ave.), 12:41 p.m., Caller states that a motor vehicle was broken into in the Windsor Lot and the owner is standing by.
- Dec. 27:** M14 (160 Memorial Dr.), 12:57 p.m., Report of malicious destruction to a vending machine.
- Dec. 31:** E23 (25 Carlson St.), 6:05 p.m., Construction worker was assaulted at E15 work site.
- Jan. 2:** Lot 15 (22 Windsor St.), 1:42 a.m., Reporting person stated that his rear license plate was missing from his motor vehicle.  
M3 (33 Mass. Ave.), 2:22 p.m., Harassing e-mail.
- Jan. 4:** N52 (265 Mass. Ave.), 7:49 a.m., Breaking and entering, computer equipment stolen.  
M10 (122 Memorial Dr.), 12:21 p.m., Breaking and entering, larceny of two laptop computers.  
N51 (275 Mass. Ave.), 6:07 p.m., Breaking and entering, reporting person reports audio equipment stolen from his office area.
- Jan. 7:** M9 (105 Mass. Ave.), 10:41 a.m., Breaking and entering, reporting person states that three separate rooms were entered and an iPod stolen.  
M12 (60 Rear Vassar St.), 7:26 p.m., Hit and run, reporting person reports his motor vehicle was struck and the person left the area.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

“The Tech Lodge”  
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# Yale to Reduce Tuition Growth, Increase Undergraduate Financial Aid

By Karen W. Arenson  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Yale said Monday that it would sharply increase financial aid for undergraduates, including those from families with annual incomes up to \$200,000, in a bid to ease costs for a broad swath of students.

Yale and other universities with large endowments have been under pressure from Congress to spend more and reduce charges for students. Harvard announced a similar aid expansion in December, saying the policy would cut the cost of attending college to 10 percent of income for a typical family making \$120,000 to \$180,000 a year.

Last week, Yale said that it would increase its annual spending from its \$22.5 billion endowment, freeing up money for more aid.

The president of Yale, Richard C. Levin, said Monday in an interview, "I hope this will send a strong message to people with incomes between \$45,000 and \$200,000, some of whom at the high end perceive our sticker

price as very daunting, that Yale does offer help at that range."

On average, students who receive financial aid will see their charges drop in half, Levin said. A family with two children in college, \$180,000 in income and \$200,000 in assets will see its Yale bill drop, to \$11,650 from \$22,300. Full tuition, room and board this year costs \$45,000.

Students will still be expected to contribute in addition to parental payment — but the bill will drop to \$2,500 next year, down from their \$4,400 share of the \$45,000 total. Despite other efforts to increase the aid and outreach to low- and middle-income students, Levin said, "we are still believed in many parts of the country to be inaccessible and too expensive."

Yale said its changes, to take effect in the fall and apply to all undergraduates, would raise spending on undergraduate aid by \$24 million, to more than \$80 million. Yale also said it would limit the increase in tuition, room, and board next year to 2.2 percent, raising total costs to \$46,000. In

the last five years, the increases have ranged from 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent.

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, who has been pressing colleges and universities to spend more of their endowments, applauded Yale, saying, "Students and parents are the winners."

But Grassley questioned why other colleges with endowments of more than \$1 billion had not followed suit.

Other well-heeled colleges have also taken steps to assist low- and middle-income students by replacing loans with grants in aid packages.

Not everybody welcomes the trend. Critics say it could lead less-well-off colleges to reduce aid for lower-income students as they try to compete for upper-income students.

"We encourage colleges to fully fund the neediest students before extending financial aid pledges up the income scale," said Robert Shireman, executive director of the Project on Student Debt, a group that focuses on financial aid.

## Facing More Student Center Thefts Than Ever, CAC Works on Security

Theft, from Page 1

ing a library-style security system, in which the chairs would be tagged so that they could not leave the reading room without setting off an alarm. She said that such a system would cost about \$10,000. Since the CAC has no security budget, according to Walsh, securing the reading room would directly affect the organization's funding for other space improvements.

Many of the large thefts reported to the MIT Police in fall 2007 were

thefts from student group offices; the Association of Student Activities is investigating security issues surrounding the thefts, ASA President James R. Peacock IV '08 said.

Smith said that the CAC would run an education campaign in the spring to encourage people to keep their possessions safe.

This past fall semester, CAC staff visited numerous Student Center locations, including The Tech's office, to check for the stolen chairs. Walsh said no chairs were found this way —

he said that he thought the chairs had been taken to dormitory rooms or had been taken by professional thieves.

Walsh said that although keeping the Student Center secure is important, he did not want to implement certain security measures — like security cameras — that could hurt MIT's open-campus nature or its unique culture of openness and respect. "I want students to view this place as theirs," he said.

Angeline Wang contributed to the reporting of this article.

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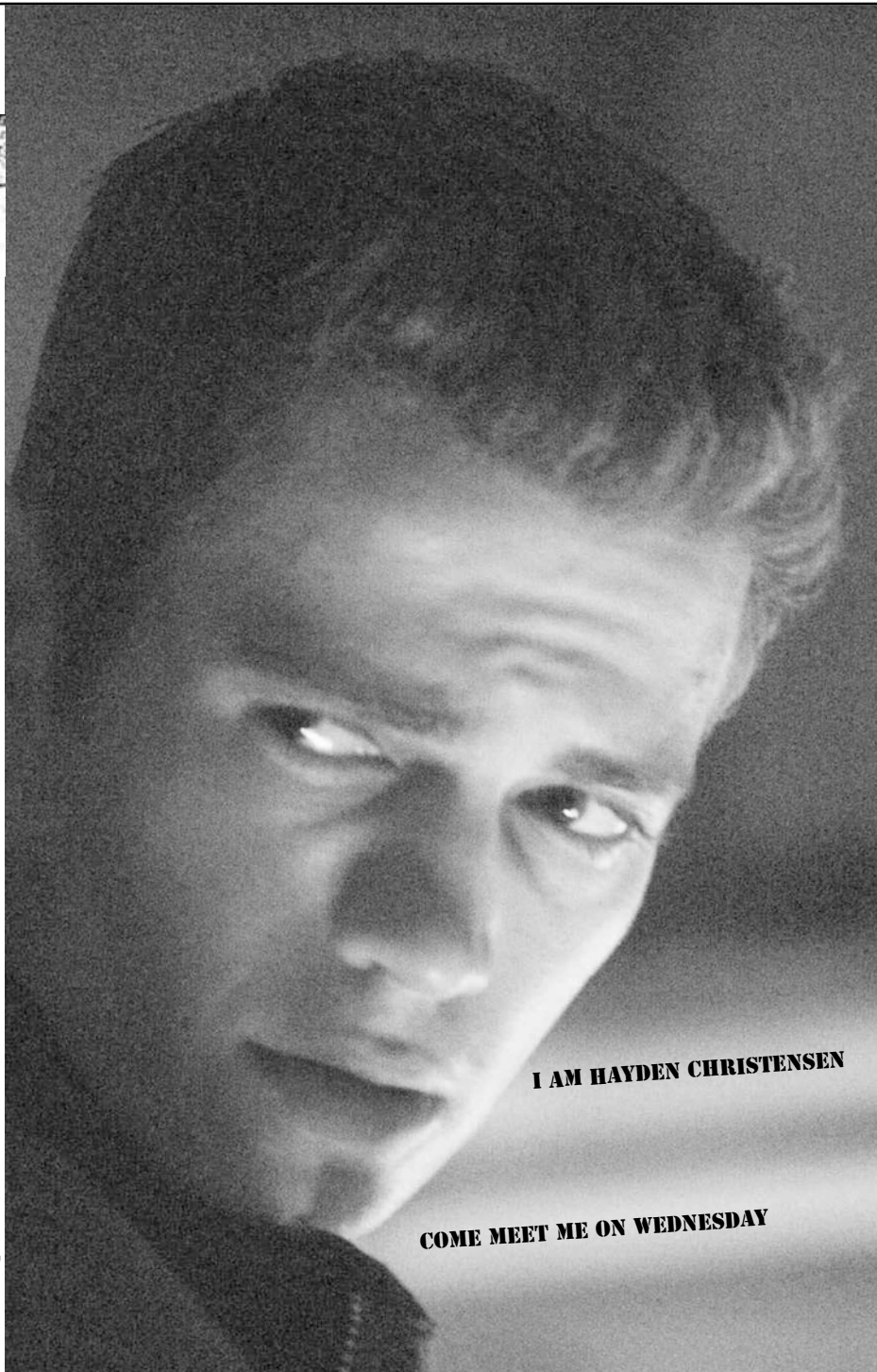
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Visit <http://lsc.mit.edu> for more information. The Sci-Fi Marathon is Saturday 26 January 7pm-5am!

# Pantsless on the Train

Commuters rode pantsless on the MBTA during the Boston No Pants ride this past Saturday.

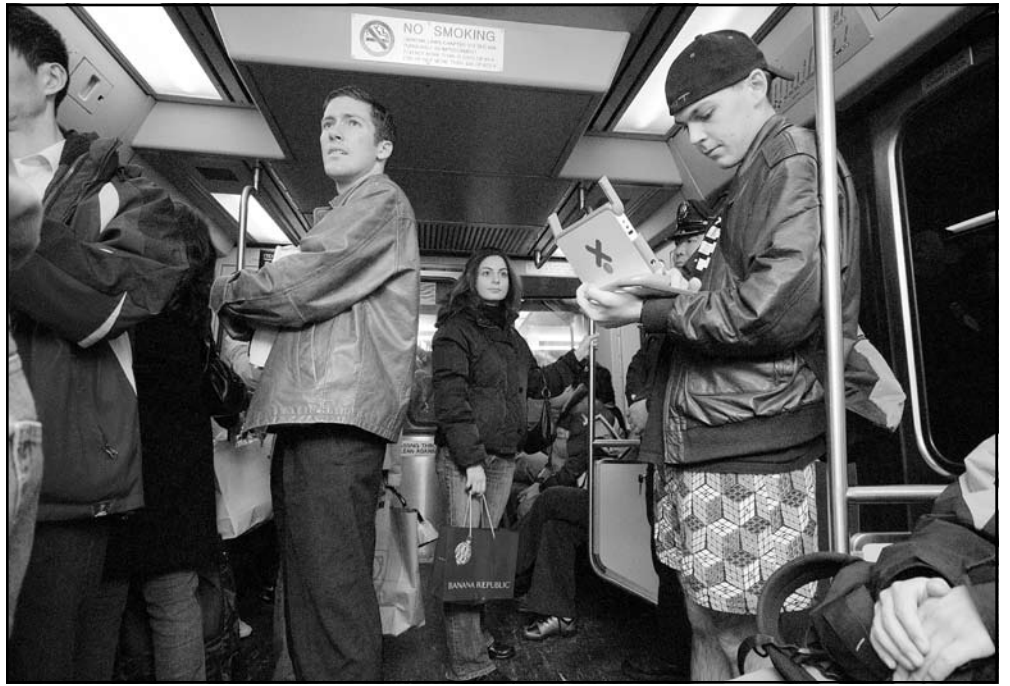
(clockwise from right)

Michael J. Snively '11 works on a One Laptop Per Child XO laptop in his boxer shorts.

Adam Sablich, organizer of the ride, addresses the crowd of subway riders and media at the Alewife train station. The riders divided up into groups and removed their pants after boarding a train.

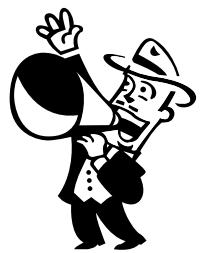
Participants in the Boston No Pants subway ride read the *Boston Phoenix* in their boxer shorts while waiting for a train at the Park Street station.

Photography by Eric D. Schmiedl



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# Men's Varsity Wins Final 4x200 Meter Relay to Clinch Meet Win

Alumni Meet, from Page 16

varsity men, however, split victories with the alumni team. Richard F. Rajter '03 and Nathan B. Ball '06 won the high jump and pole vault for the alumni team respectively, while Stephen A. Morton '10 and Mattias S. Flander '11 won the triple jump and long jump.

With the women's meet in the bag, the stage was set for the 4x200-meter showdown. The lead-off legs of Bradshaw and Adeline L. Kuo '02 handed off the batons to their second legs, where Kirsten H. Aarsvold '11 tried to put distance between herself and Niehuus. Chi-Fong Wang '07 then put in a gutsy effort and closed the gap behind varsity's Hwang. With the relay close entering the final leg, Veldhuis pulled away from Silberstein in the anchor position to cap off the varsity team's effort.

On the men's side, the meet came down to the final 50 meters of the final race, a close 4x200-meter relay battle. Anthony D. Teixeira '08 led off against Zachary J. Traina '05. With the race still neck and neck, Matthew F. Bieniosek '09 and Thaddeus J. Wozniak '06 fought to give their anchor legs the lead. In the end, the race was close before Stephen W. Oney G took



**Benjamin Gathier G, assistant pole-vault coach, clears 15'5 1/2" with room to spare during the track and field alumni meet held Saturday, Jan. 12. The meet pitted alumni from the MIT track and field team against the current varsity squad.**

the lead against Matthew A. Lehman '04 and refused to look back. At the end of the meet, both varsity teams walked away with the victory and, given the race times, are poised to break records this season.

# Packers Will Rely on Favre, Young Offense

NFL, from Page 16

offensive production, particularly with injury sapping effectiveness.  
*Pick: Patriots over Chargers*

## New York Giants at Green Bay Packers

Who would have guessed that Eli would be the Manning to emerge from the divisional playoffs? Unfortunately for the younger Manning, the Giants' Cinderella story ends in the National Football Conference championship.

The Giants suffered an embarrassing 35-13 defeat to the Packers in their regular-season meeting, but that too was on Sept. 16, and may as well have occurred 10 years ago. The Giants, Version 2.0, look more confident on defense under defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo. After leading the league with 53 sacks during the regular season, the Giants will try to put pressure on Green Bay's veteran quarterback Brett Favre.

The Packers too look like a new

team compared to their Week 2 version. Starting in the backfield is Ryan Grant, who ironically was released by the Giants before the season began. Grant took all of two minutes last week to rid himself of the playoff jitters (granted they were a costly two minutes), and played in perhaps his best game of the year.

Favre too is a different man than he was at the beginning of the season. His numbers this year are more consistent than in the past, undoubtedly due to the greater restraint he's shown in the passing game. Playing high-percentage ball with his young receivers, Favre has inspired confidence in his young corps, developing one of the most prolific passing attacks in the NFC.

In the end, a football team is only as good as its quarterback. Honestly, do you trust Eli Manning? Brett Favre has been a man on a mission since he decided to return this season, and he's not going to let the Giants stand in his way.

*Pick: Packers over Giants*

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SPORTS

Current Varsity Athletes Best Grads in Track's Alumni Meet

By Andrea Bradshaw  
TEAM MEMBER

The annual track and field alumni meet pits the guts and raw talent of the alumni has-beens against the training of the current varsity team. The men's and women's varsity teams, fresh off a winter break spent in the weight room, proved up to the challenge. The women's team won the meet by a score of 86-23, while the men's meet came down to the wire, with the varsity team winning 70-61.

The meet began with the mile run, where Hana L. Adaniya '07, Lauren L. McCarthy '08, and Elizabeth M. Finn '09 raced against Rachel M. Niehuus '07 of the alumnae team. On the men's side, Jacob J. Ruzevick '09 paced alumnus Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper '05, followed closely by Paul D. Welle '11.

Major excitement ensued during the men's 55-meter hurdle competition. Richard F. Rajter '03, an assistant coach and alumnus, finished the race in a personal-record 7.77 seconds, only hundredths away from the national provisional qualifying time. In the 55-meter race, Margaret C. Leibovic '10 dashed away from the rest of the field, finishing in a blazing 7.69 seconds. She followed that up with a decisive win in the 200-meter dash as well. On the men's side, Stephen A. Morton '10 silenced the smack-talking alumni and mirrored Leibovic's double win, setting meet records in both the 55-meter and 200-meter dashes.

On the women's side, Adrienne M. Bolger '09 and Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 both posted impressive 800-meter times, while Anna Holt-Gosselin '11 beat All-American alumna Martha W. Buckley G in the 5,000-meter race with a time under 19 minutes. In a close 400-meter dash, Leanne Veldhuis '08 finished just ahead of Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 while alumna Meredith N. Silberstein G secured a third-place finish.

The men's varsity team owned the 800-meter race, where Jacob J. Ruzevick '09, John A. Granata '11, William S. Phipps '10, and Kevin G. Kleinguetl '11 finished ahead of



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

**Hazel L. Briner '11, pole-vaulter and pentathlete, competes in a 400-meter hand-stand race held after Saturday's track and field alumni meet. Briner finished the two grueling laps of the indoor track in 23 minutes, 16 seconds, just a scant 2 seconds ahead of alumna Merritt S. Tam '05.**

Eric A. Khatchadorian '06. Jeremiah R. Cohen '09 won the packed 5,000-meter race, followed closely by alumnus Schmeckpeper and varsity teammates Christopher Wong '08 and M. Brian Jacobes '08.

In the throwing events, Aline Thomas '08 and Sarah C. Rich '08 were uncontested, and James R. Oleinik '09 and Anthony MacDonald

'10 of the varsity team had tough competition in Uzoma A. Orji '06 and Todd N. Chamoy '98.

The varsity women took first place in all of the jumps. Karen M. Davie '07, Emily Hwang '09, and Amy R. Magnuson '10 each walked away with individual victories. The

Alumni Meet, Page 15

Patriots and Packers Predicted to Face Off In NFL Championship

By Caroline Huang  
and Shreyes Seshasai  
SPORTS EDITORS

This weekend's divisional championships feature a cast of characters that would make Hollywood jealous (or at least ready to pitch a screenplay).

**Column** The grizzled fan favorite — written off last year as “too old” for football — seeking his first Super Bowl appearance in over 10 years.

The younger brother — constantly compared to his Super Bowl-winning, endorsement-pitching older sibling — reveling in his newfound ability to not fold under pressure.

The erratic trash-talker — known more for his tendency to jaw with crowds than for his skills — attempting to legitimize himself as a star player.

The respected winner — rapidly ascending into discussions of the best quarterback ever — concentrating on only one goal, another Super Bowl ring.

And those are just the starting quarterbacks, to say nothing of the supporting cast ...

But before Spielberg calls, we again offer our picks.

San Diego Chargers at New England Patriots

The 17-0 New England Patriots welcome their West Coast counterparts to Gillette Stadium for the American Football Conference championship, a rematch of the Sept. 16 regular-season game that ended in a lopsided 38-14 Pats victory.

The Chargers are confident that this game will be far closer, but much of that depends on the health of their team. Most notably, star running back LaDainian Tomlinson and quarterback Philip Rivers suffered injuries last week in the Chargers' upset win over the Indianapolis Colts.

An MRI showed that Rivers

sprained his right medial collateral ligament in addition to his previously sprained left knee. For a quarterback whose mobility is questionable at full strength, having two gimpy knees could be devastating. Billy Volek showed some promise as a replacement against the Colts, but if Brady and Co. jump ahead early, asking him to throw accurately on a consistent basis will be asking too much.

The outlook is brighter for LT, who expects to play Sunday because his knee is only hyperextended. It will be interesting to see whether his trademark explosiveness is intact. If it is, the Patriots defense — which has given up opening-drive touchdowns in the previous two games — will have to worry about LT's rushing and receiving. If it isn't, the Chargers offense will see plenty of three-and-outs, particularly if tight end Antonio Gates continues to show ill effects of his toe injury.

Don't like our picks?

Don't just sit there, let us know why. E-mail [nfl@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:nfl@the-tech.mit.edu) (before the games), and the authors of the two best responses can publish their picks for the Super Bowl in next Wednesday's issue of *The Tech*.

With an uncertain offense that cannot match the Patriots touchdown for touchdown, the Chargers' defense will have to find a way

to stop Brady's passing attack. One switch from the Sept. 16 blowout is cornerback Antonio Cromartie starting in their secondary, which could help the Chargers create turnovers.

However, we say “could” for a reason: once again, the Patriots have too many weapons. Wide receiver Randy Moss is capable of causing teams quick deaths, while slot receiver Wes Welker provides the slow burn. The underrated running game, anchored by Laurence Maroney, has emerged as well.

Final thoughts: as much as commentators have lauded the Chargers for showing heart against the Colts, heart will not help them against the Pats. The Brady-led offense will score plenty of touchdowns — regardless of Cromartie's presence — and San Diego will not be able to match the Pats'

NFL, Page 15

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008

Wrestling vs. Southern Maine 7 p.m., duPont Athletic Center  
Women's Basketball vs. Wellesley 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage  
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Bridgewater State 7 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008

Men's Volleyball vs. Mount Ida 7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008

Pistol vs. Merchant Marine Academy 9 a.m., duPont Athletic Center  
Men's Track vs. Bates and Colby 12 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center  
Women's Track vs. Bates and Colby 1 p.m., Johnson Athletic Center  
Men's Swimming and Diving vs. Colby 1 p.m., Zesiger Center  
Women's Swimming and Diving vs. Colby 1 p.m., Zesiger Center  
Women's Gymnastics vs. Ursinus, Rhode Island College, Wilson 1 p.m., duPont Athletic Center  
Men's Basketball vs. Springfield College 2 p.m., Rockwell Cage  
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Nichols College 3 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena  
Men's Volleyball vs. Springfield College 6 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008

Pistol vs. Merchant Marine Academy 9 a.m., duPont Athletic Center

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008

Wheaton (9-2, 0-1) 62  
MIT (9-4, 1-0) 81

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT (9-5, 1-1) 63  
Babson College (4-9, 1-1) 75

Women's Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008

Smith College (3-7, 1-0 NEWMAC\*) 54  
MIT (6-5, 0-1) 45

Monday, Jan. 14, 2008

Newbury College (1-11)  
MIT (6-5, 0-1) Postponed (snow)

Women's Ice Hockey

Friday, Jan. 11, 2008

Saint Anselm (11-0-0, 8-0-0 ECAC† East) 7  
MIT (0-7-0, 0-7-0 ECAC East) 1

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

UMass-Boston (6-6-0, 4-4-0 ECAC East) 6  
MIT (0-8-0, 0-8-0 ECAC East) 1

Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008

College of St. Catherine (4-8-1, 1-5-0 MIAC‡) 3  
MIT (0-9-0, 0-8-0 ECAC East) 0

\* New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference  
† Eastern College Athletic Conference  
‡ Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Men's Track

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT Alumni 61  
MIT Varsity 70

Women's Track

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT Alumnae 23  
MIT Varsity 86

Wrestling

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT 16  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute 33

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT 18  
Williams College 38

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT 13  
Trinity College 33

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008

MIT 22  
University of Southern Maine 33

Women's Gymnastics

Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008

Brown University 178.075  
MIT 175.100  
Rhode Island College 161.200

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